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忍びの国

原作◆和田竜
作画◆坂ノ睦

「忍びの国」新潮社刊

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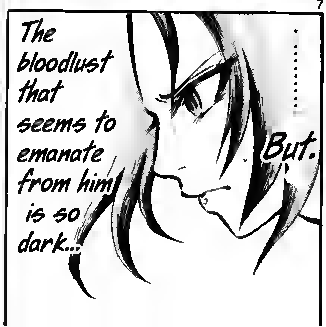
Chapter 17

ドン
!
ズ

トサ
……！
ニヤ
ニヤ

As if it were the darkness that covers and crushes everything...
ku ku ku

I NEVER REALIZED MUMON DONO WAS SO STRONG...
AMA-ZING...
HE IS PROVING HIMSELF A WORTHY OPPONENT AGAINST SUCH A MIGHTY WARRIOR!


The bloodlust that seems to emanate from him is so dark...
But.

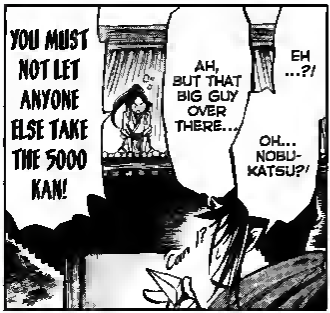
SO, THEY FINALLY CAME...
?
FRESH FORCES! ENGAGE THE ENEMY!!

FATHER!
MY DEAR!
AH...
Now

MUMON-
DONO!!

Die
GIVE
ME MY
10
KAN!!
!

...YES?
.....


YOU MUST NOT LET ANYONE ELSE TAKE THE 5000 KAN!
AH, BUT THAT BIG GUY OVER THERE...
EH ...?!
OH... NOBU-KATSU?!
Can I?

IF YOU CALL YOURSELF THE GREATEST SHINOBI OF IGA,
THEN YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE HEAD OF THE GENERAL!

... So, that's what this is about...

.....?

WAIT THERE, I'LL GO AND MAKE A LITTLE MONEY.
WELL, AT LEAST FOR NOW HEIRAKU TEMPLE IS SAFE.
THERE ARE FEWER ENEMIES THAN I HAD EXPE-CTED...
THERE ARE FEWER ENEMIES THAN I HAD EXPECTED NOT TO MENTION ENOUGH FOOT SOLDIERS AGAINST THEM PROTECTING THEIR LOVED ONES...
Chuni is on the roof too...
I pray you are safe, my 5000 kan...

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
I'M SURPRISED,
IS IT TRUE THAT A HELMETED SOLDIER IS WORTH 10 KAN?
Banoguchi
YEAH, THAT'S WHY I'M IN THIS CONDITION.

I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.
THERE IS A "TIGER" HIDING AMONG THE ENEMY TROOPS...
Heh~
MY JOB IS DONE HERE.
BESIDES,
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KISARU? ARE YOU ONLY GOING TO WATCH FROM A DISTANCE?

I SEE...
IT'S NOT A BAD DEAL THOUGH, RIGHT?
SO...
WHY ARE YOU SO SOAKED?

*A LARGE SWORD USED ON HORSEBACK

TSUGE-DONO! LET NAGANO-DONO TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE AND GO IN AT THE REAR!
He truly is the greatest o-dachi master in Iga!
HE USES THE O-DACHI* SO EASILY...
!

We've been surrounded.
Bastards... they're still hunting helmeted soldiers.
YOU WILL NOT LEAVE!
!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HEIBE-DONO...
THIS IS WAR,
WHY DON'T YOU WEAR YOUR MASK LIKE YOU USED TO?

THIS FACE...
IS THE EMBODIMENT OF MY INTENT.
17
!!?

IT'S NO LONGER SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE HIDDEN, IN ORDER TO FOOL MY OWN HEART.
HEIBE...

I WILL CLEAR THE WAY.
COME WITH ME!

MOVE, IT'S MINE!
GIVE IT TO ME!
YOUR HEAD...
WAAA!!
UH!
GNA
GYA!
GUAA!

!
BASTA-RDS...

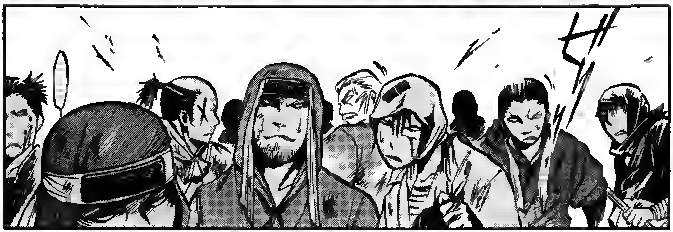
FORM GROUPS OF 5 OR MORE AND PUSH FORWARD!!
EVERYBODY, STAY TOGETHER!
YOU MUST PROTECT ME!!
...ME!
21

YOU BASTARDS, GET BACK!
YOU MUST PROTECT ME!!
PRICES ON THE HEADS OF THE ENEMY?!
I KNOW OF NO SUCH ORDERS!
22

ドォン
ドドドド
ドドドド
ドドドド
BO!!

ARE YOU THE GENERAL?

Nagano...
Sakyou-nosuke!
GU...
BASTARDS,
PROTECT ME!
IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT, I'LL PAY YOU!!!
MEN!!
CONSIDER THAT MAN YOUR ONLY ENEMY! ATTACK!!
!!!



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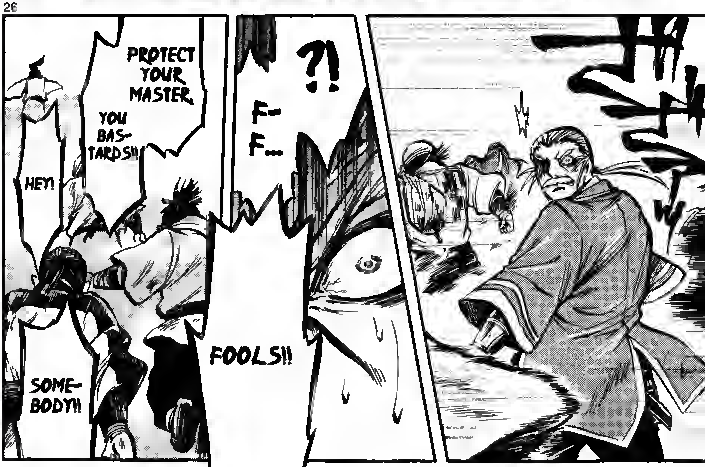

HEIBE!!
!
UH...
27
HEIBE!
HEIBE...
I ORDER YOU TO SAVE ME!!

HEIBE...
FORGIVE ME!!
BUT...
IT WAS THE PLAN OF THE TWELVE HOUSE COUNCIL TO PUT YOU UNDER OUR JUTSU TO MAKE YOU TURN TO THE IGA ARMY...
IT WAS ALL FOR YOUR SAKE!!
IT WAS ALL SO THAT I COULD LEAVE...
AS MUCH LAND FOR YOU AS POSSIBLE!!

ドッ
SAVE ME...
HEIBE! FORGIVE ME!!
SAVE YOUR FATHER!!!

Suffer for the ones...
Who died for your greed!

From the moment I departed on this country...
I was no longer... your son!!

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi

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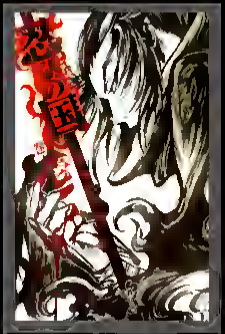

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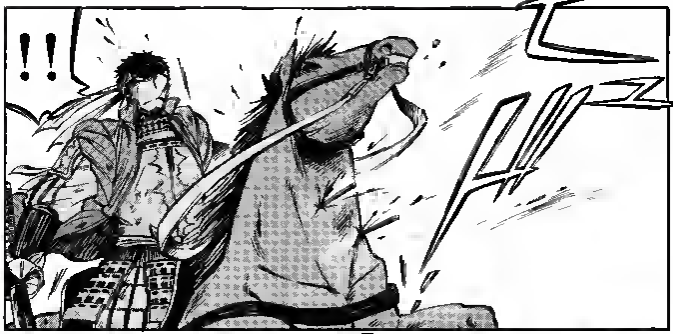
Shinobi no Kuni chapter 18

2

Zzzt!
UH...
Even with their General dead, their blood lust remains the same.
DON'T RELENT!
KILL AS MANY MONEY MONGERS AS YOU CAN!!

HEHE HE...


!!

GUYS, LET'S BRING DOWN THE HORSES!

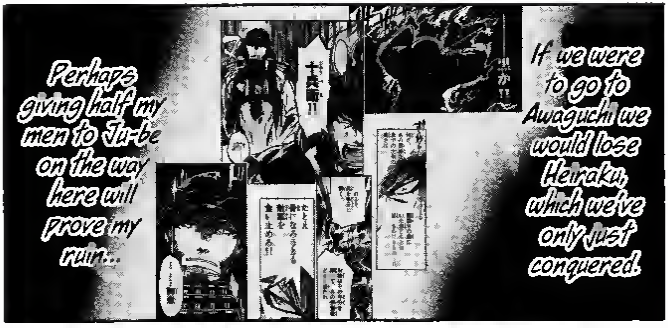
HOW COWARDLY TO ATTACK THE HORSES...
BAS-TARDS,
HAHA HA...
AGAINST THE IGA ARMY, CALLING US COWARDS IS A JOKE!

FINE.
COME AT ME!

WHAT IS HE,
THAT MAN..
They were cut down so quickly?
That man single-handedly led his men to take control of the Heiraku temple...
When the Iga army arrived, they were clearly double the number of the enemies...
I SHOULD'VE NEVER SENT HIM TO NOBUKATSU
I'M SUCH A FOOL!
If only Mumon-dono had been here...

!!!
UWA!
!
……?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

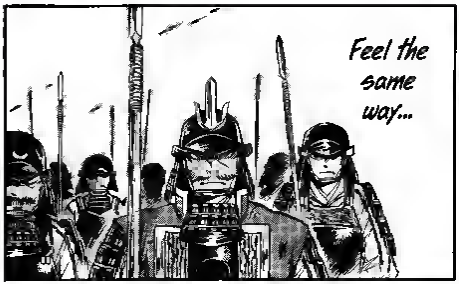
*HE ACTUALLY SAYS "GONONJO" WHICH WAS A NICKNAME GIVEN TO NOBUKATSU IN REAL LIFE
MY LORD*... IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY...
THE ENEMY FORCES ARE RELENTLESS,
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE OUR ALLIES COLLAPSE!!
PLEASE, COME AND GIVE ASSISTANCE TO AWAGUCHI!
I BEG OF YOU...
I BEG OF YOU...
10
Nobukatsu is in danger?!
What should I do?


Perhaps giving half my men to Ju-be on the way here will prove my ruin...
If we were to go to Awaguchi we would lose Heiraku, which we've only just conquered.

Or stay here...?
Should I go and assist...
Whew!
MY LORD ...

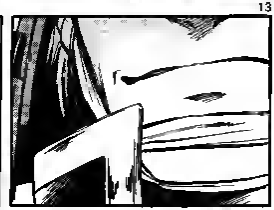
YOU MUST REMAIN HERE AT HEIRAKU!
YOU CAN LEAVE NOBUKATSU TO DIE.

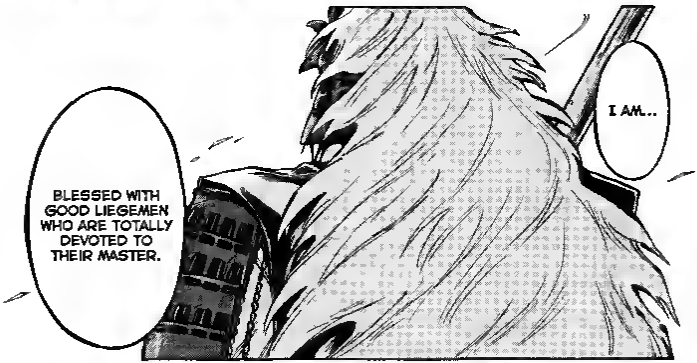
DAIZEN -SAMA!
NO ONE WILL QUESTION YOU.
WE WERE FIGHTING OUR ENEMIES.
THEY WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT ALL 8000 OF OUR HORSEMEN.
NOBUKATSU, THE MAN WHO FORCED OUR LORD TO BETRAY TOMONORI-SAMA, THE FORMER MASTER OF THE HEKI CLAN...
OUR DEVOTION IS ENTIRELY YOURS, MASTER DAIZEN-SAMA!
HE DOESN'T DESERVE OUR RESCUE!
IT'S TRUE WE DESPISE HIM.

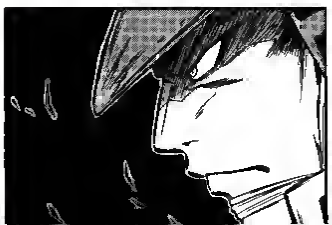

Feel the same way...

They all...

HA
HA HA




I AM...
BLESSED WITH GOOD LIEGEMEN WHO ARE TOTALLY DEVOTED TO THEIR MASTER.

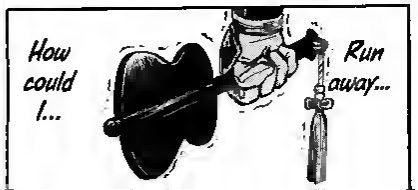


NOW, MY LORD...!

I started this attack on Iga without permission from my Father.
Moreover, I lost several thousand men. Running home now with my tail between my legs would be unforgivable!

There's no way I could run.

GOHON-JO, PLEASE RUN!
PLEASE RUN!


How could I...
Run away...

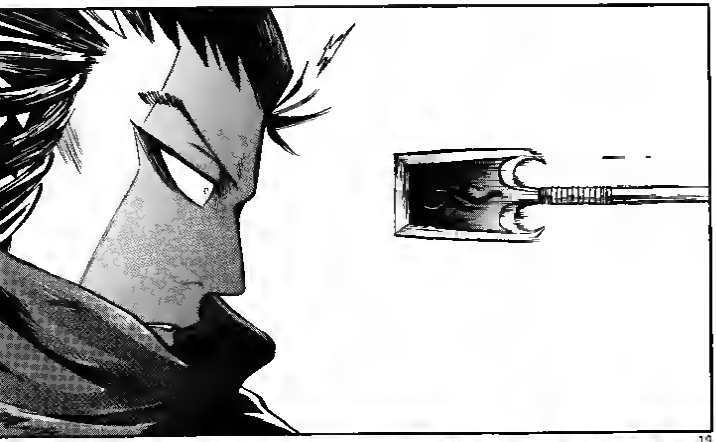
It is too late to run now!!

I cannot run.

KA

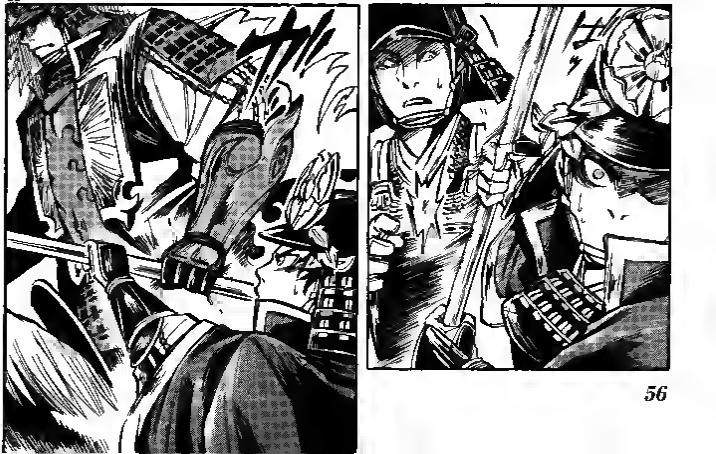
Llama

MUMON!!
HOW WONDERFUL,
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE 5000 KAN!!
MUMON!!



MY DEAR HIKO-ZA,
I WILL
NOT BETRAY MY MASTER TWICE!!

22



!
DAMN... WHAT KIND OF ARROW WAS THAT?

MU-MOM
DO NOT MISTAKE ME FOR SOME COMMON SOLDIER !!

My balance ...
SWOOSH
!?
24
!!

!!……
DID YOU GET HIM?
NOT YET.
!?
……
CHAIN-MAIL…

Heave
I'VE NEVER TAKEN THESE OFF ON THE BATTLEFIELD BEFORE.
YOU ...
So he had steel mail wrapped around his body the whole time?!
Even like that, he Taijutsu* until now...
Even mail leggings?!

*CLASSICAL FORM OF MARTIAL ARTS

EVEN I DON'T KNOW...
JUST HOW FAST I'LL BE...
!!?
He dis-appeared?!
GO-HONJO,
STAY AWAY FROM ME!

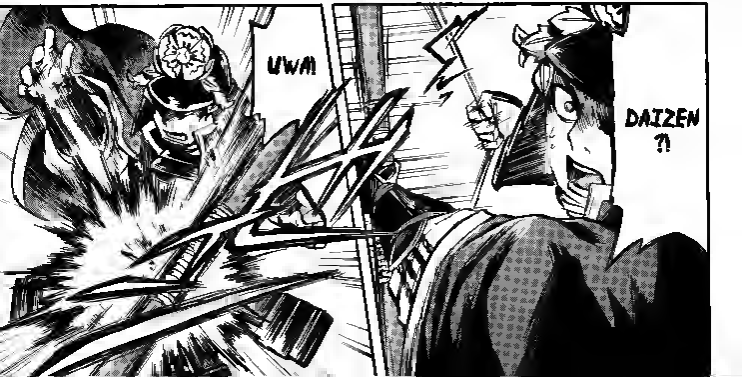
KAK
KAK
KAK
KAK

!
UH ...

SLASH
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO DRAW IT...
IT'S TIGHT ...
I ORDERED THIS FOR YOU, A TIGHTLY DRAWN BOW OF GONIN-BARI*.
HEKI DAIZEN!
*REQUIRING 5 PEOPLE TO DRAW THE BOW

DIE.
MUMON YOU BASTARD !
TCH!

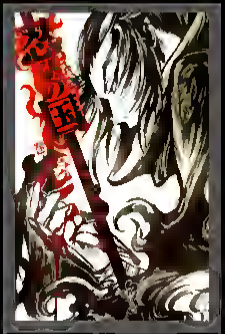

UWA!
DAIZEN ?!

30

*T/N: A NICKNAME GIVEN TO ASAKURA YOSHIKAGE BY ODA NOBUNAGA. HE LATER USED IT TO MAKE FUN OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR HIM THAT HE CONSIDERED CARELESS AND NEGLIGENT

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi



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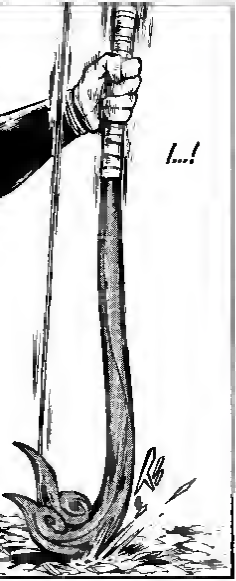
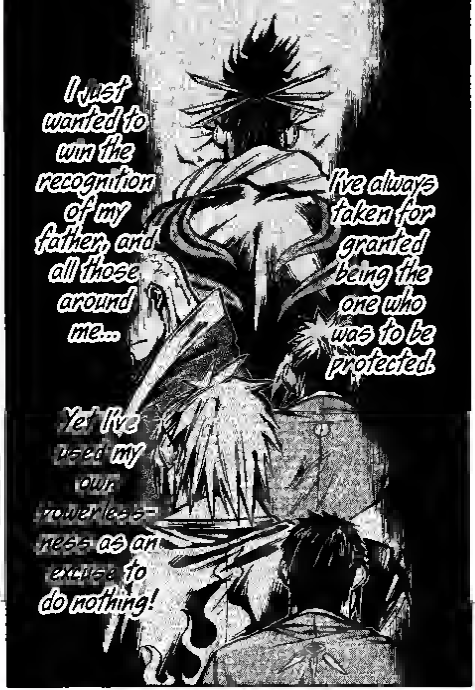
YOU USED YOUR RIGHT HAND TO SHIELD YOUR NECK?
AR-GH...
HEHE
KAK
HEHE HEHE
KAK
KAK
KAK
HEHE

2

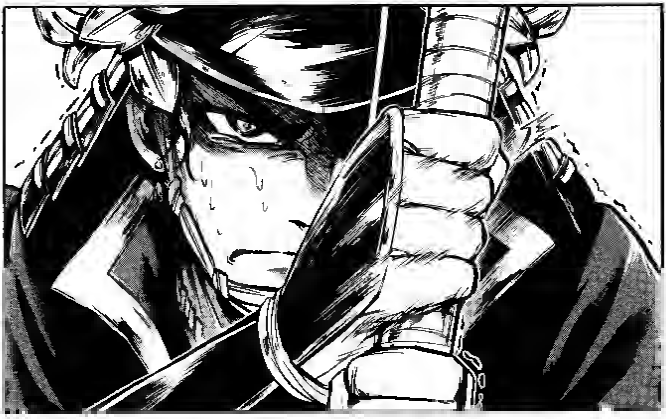
I haven't changed in the slightest since then...

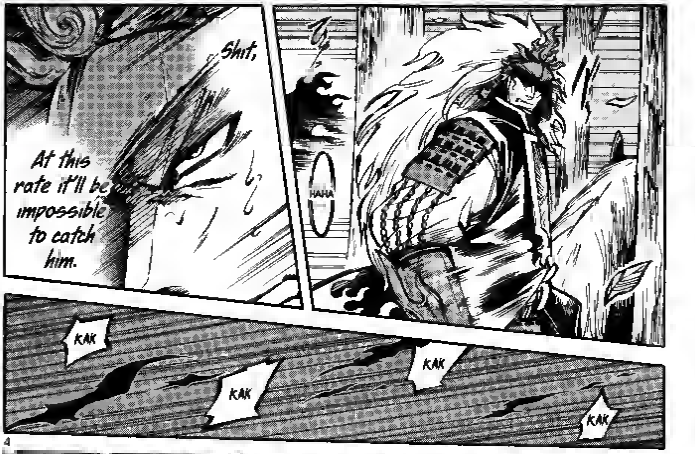
.....

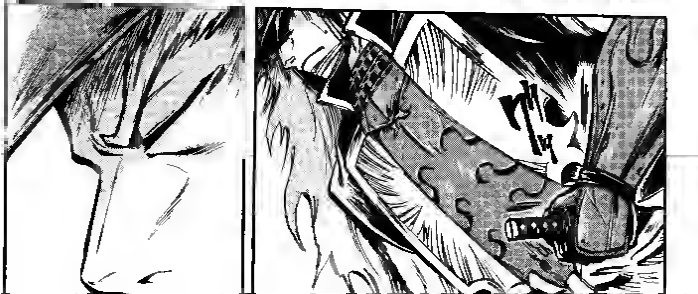

I...!


I've always taken for granted being the one who was to be protected.
I just wanted to win the recognition of my father, and all those around me...
Yet I've kept my own motherless niece as an exile to do nothing!

3

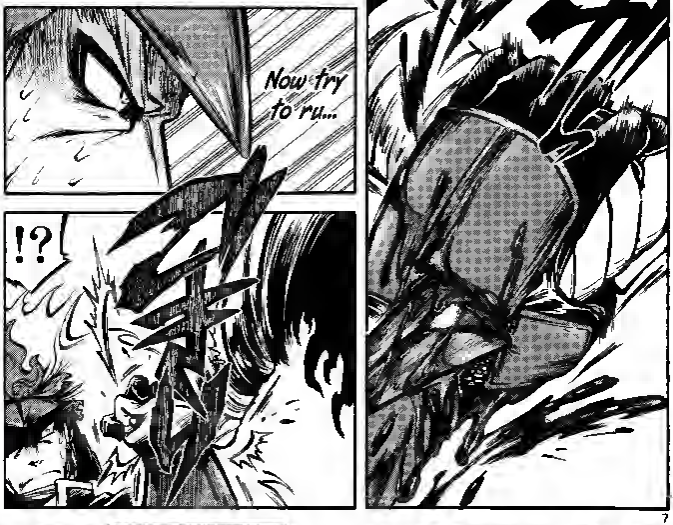


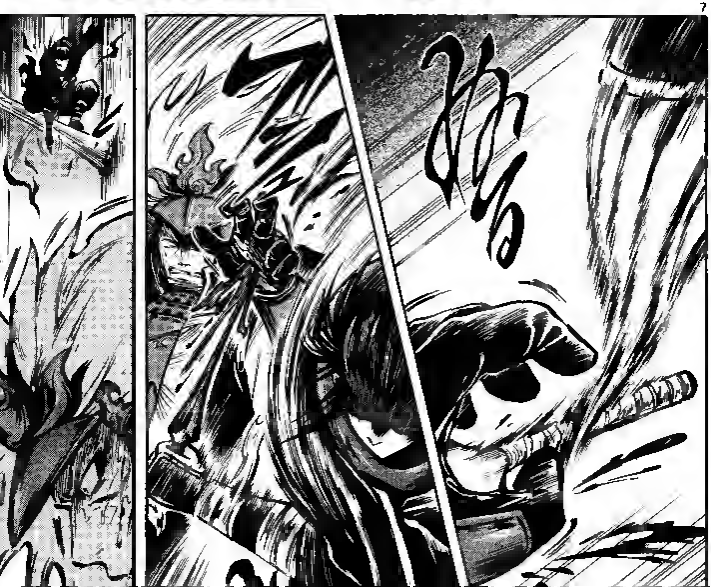

Shit,
At this rate it'll be impossible to catch him.
HAHA
KAK
KAK
KAK
KAK

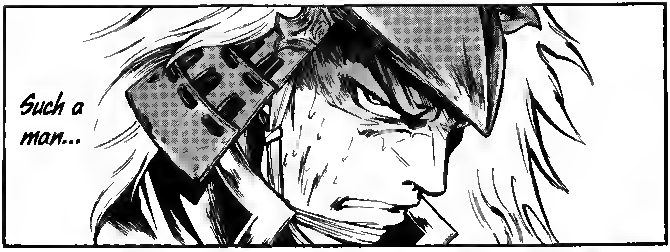


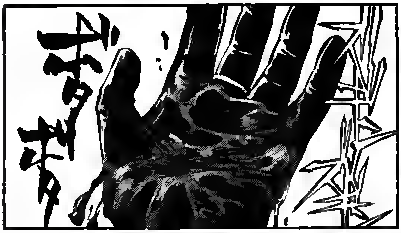
...Above me!!

YOU THINK YOU BLOCKED THAT?
FOOL...
Now!!


Now try to ru...
!?

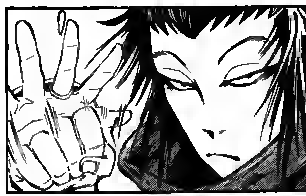



Such a man...


ガッ
ガッ

ジャリ

Both my hands have been sealed.
Now I won't even be able to grasp my prey...



So, this is the end...
GET DOWN DAI-ZEN!!

I... ALSO MUST ...
I MUST —
CHANGE!
I MUST AT LEAST BECOME CAPABLE TO PROTECT MY OWN VASSAL!!
AAHH
AAAAHHH
AAHH
PUSH OUT THE BOW!
YOU DO NOT DRAW A BOW WITH YOUR ARM, USE YOUR BACK!

WAAAAAHHHH
!

TCH...

?!!
13

MUMON?!
!
MUMON'S BEEN TAKEN DOWN?
HE'S BEEN SHOT?
THAT MU-MON?
14
GOHONJO...

I WAS SAVED.
BUT LOOK AROUND..
はぁ…
はぁ はぁ
ドゴ
SO, THIS IS WHAT IT'S COME TO...
PLEASE, RETREAT BACK TO ISE

PULL THE TRIG-GER!

PUFF...
HEAVE...
ボタ
ボタ

!!
ドドドドド
We are completely surrounded, there's no hope for an escape.
We've lost more than half of our men.
This is endless.
BAS-TARDS —
I can no longer even lift the O-dachi...
IS IT TIME NOW?

AAAHH!
……?
!!
HEIBE-!

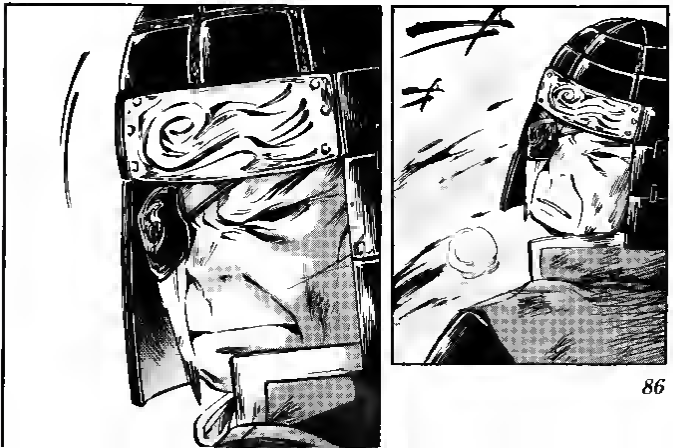
THE MEN AT AWA-GUCHI ARE WITH-DRAWING!
NAGANO-DONO, YOU MUST ALSO RETREAT WITH THE MEN YOU HAVE LEFT!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YOU WERE SUP-POSED TO HAVE GONE BACK TO THE SECOND FOR-MATION...
Tch, that bastard...!

TSUGE-DONO SAYS
HE WILL COVER THE RETREAT!

NOW THAT GOHONJO HAS WITH-DRAWN,
THE ENEMIES AT AWAGUCHI WILL MAKE THEIR ADVANCE HERE...
I'm to have my life saved by an Iga warrior now?!
.....
NAGA-NO-DONO,
COVER THE RETREAT? BY NINJA?!
YOU MUST ALSO ACCEPT THEM AS THE REAR GUARD!!
IF YOU ACCEPT TSUGE-DONO AS A WARRIOR,
21
TSUGE!!
!
... Be prepared to fall in battle!
.....

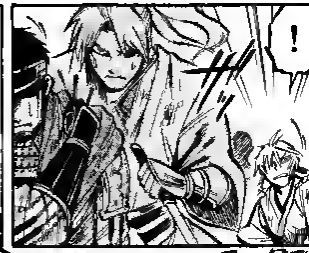
FOR THE DISCOURTESIES UNTIL NOW, AS WELL AS ON BEHALF OF MY FRIEND HEKI DAIZEN, I OFFER YOU OUR APOLOGIES.
PLEASE, FORGIVE US.

22



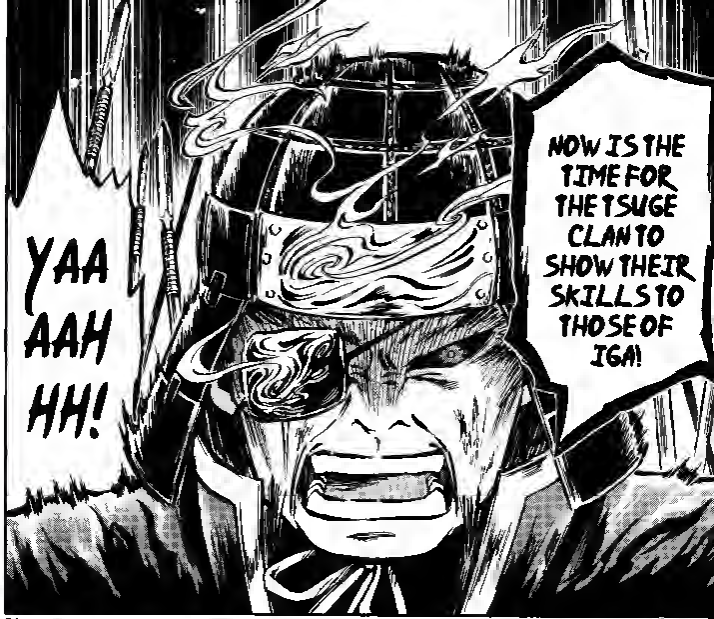
UNDER TSUGE-DONO'S ORDERS,
I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU, NAGANO-DONO, TO ISE...
PLEASE MAKE HASTE.

WAIT HEIBE-, YOU BASTARD!
LET ME THANK YOU FOR THIS WOUND!


!

MEN!! THE TSUGE CLAN WILL NOW SERVE AS THE REAR GUARDS!!
THE SOLDIERS OF THE TSUGE CLAN WILL TRADE THEIR LIVES TO RETURN THE NAGANO CLAN SOLDIERS TO ISE!

ARGH!


YAA AAH HH!
NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE TSUGE CLAN TO SHOW THEIR SKILLS TO THOSE OF IGA!

IS THAT SO...
THEN LET ME HAVE YOUR HEAD INSTEAD!!

Can I do it?
!
!?!
What?
!!?

DO IT
ｸﾞｲ
TCH...
FWA...

.....
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

A clear voice, with no rust of age...
YOU ARE STILL ONLY A CHILD.
The retainer of Momoji Sandayu-, I am Bungo from Ishikawa village!
28
The 10 kan is mine!
Kisaru look!
He is no longer human.
But...

29
OO
OO
HH
HH
HO
OO
OO!
O!

Heira-ku temple
I AM HERE TO RE-PORT,
THE ENTIRE ISE ARMY IS RE-TREATING!
THE ISE ARMY IS RETREAT-ING!
THEY ARE RE-TREAT-ING!!

We were victorious!!

SO THIS WAR...
IS THAT TRUE?!
MY GOD...

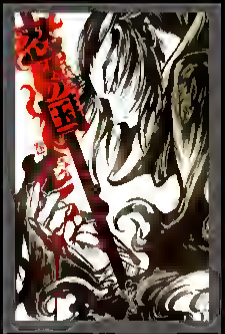
THE IGA ARMY HAS DEFEATED NOBUKATSU AND HIS TROOPS!!
WE...
WON...

..MU-MON-DONO
WHERE IS MU-MON-DONO?
EX-CUSE ME...
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING OF MUMON-DONO?

MUMON IS DEAD.

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi



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Chapter 20

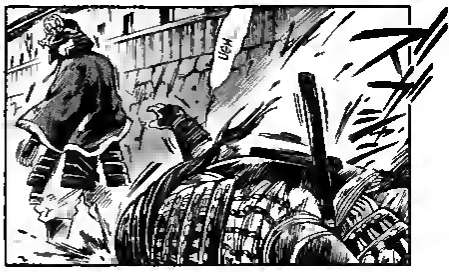
Mumon is dead?
MUMON-DONO...

Without his horse nor sword,

With his tail between his legs

Together with the only a few men who were still left standing, Nobukatsu retreated over the Nagano Pass.

The day after the attack on Iga, on the afternoon of September 18
Tamaru Castle
THEY HAVE RE-TURNED!

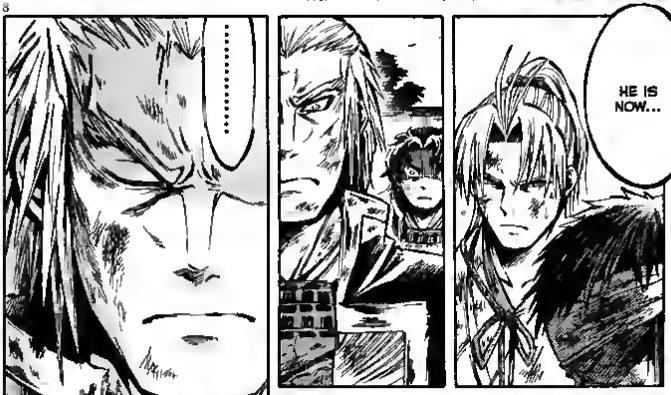

UGH

ドッ
5

HOW COULD I BE SUCH A FOOL?!
A MAN AS FOOLISH AS I'VE BEEN EVEN IF YOU LOOK ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
YOU WON'T FIND...
THAT IS TRUE.

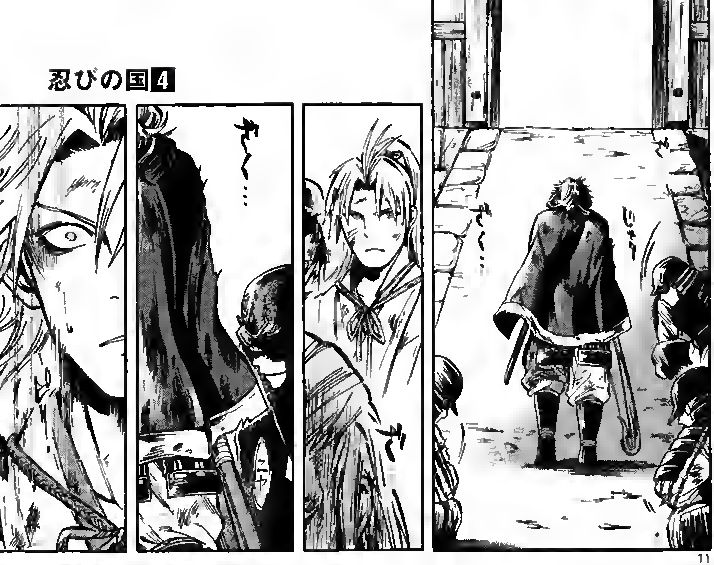
WE WILL ETCH INTO THESE EYES THIS DEFEAT AND STARTING FROM BEING A FOOL
WE WILL WALK ON, ONE STEP AT A TIME
BUT IF GOHONJO IS A FOOL, THEN SO AM I.

SAKYOUNO-SUKE, YOU MADE IT!
I WAS... SAVED BY TSUGE.
HE VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD THE REAR GUARDS TO SAVE ME.


HE IS NOW...

I'VE OPEN THE DOORS TO EVERY ROOM IN THE CASTLE TO BE USED BY OUR SOLDIERS.
TELL THE MEN TO CONCEN-TRATE ON RECUPE-RATING NOW.
GO-HON-JO...

THIS STRONG BOW SEEMS TO AGREE WITH YOUR ARM.
LEAVE ME BE.


ぐ…
ぐ…
ぐ…
ぐ…

GOHONJO, STEP AWAY FROM THAT SOLDIER!!!

!!?
UGH...
.....
KUKU KU...
YOU'RE GOOD.

MU-MON!!
IM-POSS-IBLE...
Kuhhahha
THERE ARE DISGUISES LYING ABOUT EVERYWHERE IN THAT MELEE.
IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO FOOL YOUR EYES.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE...
OF COURSE NOT.

!!!

14

SHIT ...
THIS IS BAD.
SAKYOUNO-SUKE NOR I HAVE ANY STRENGTH LEFT TO FIGHT...
15
WAIT...

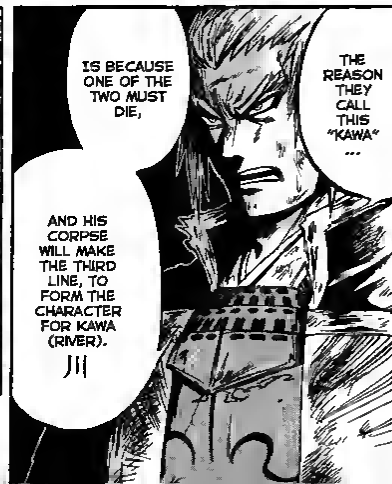
...WELL.

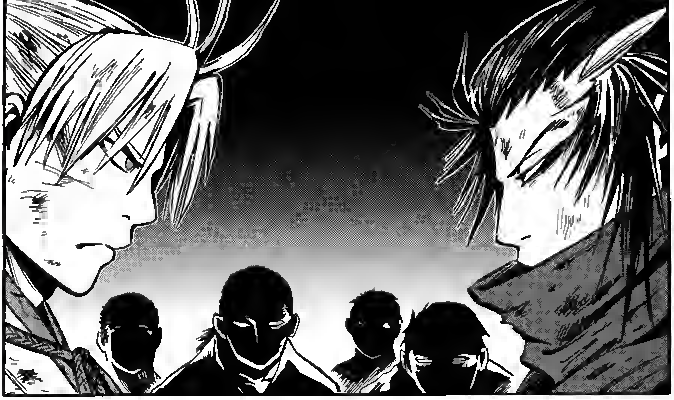
"KAWA"
IT IS "KAWA"!!
?.....

IT'S A WAYS FOR 2 IGA SHINOBI TO...
DUEL AGAINST EACH OTHER.
...KA-WA?
17
I HAVE HEARD IT FROM TSUGE.
KAWA IS...
E...
MUMON HAS ACCEP-TED.
!
HE HAS ACCEP-TED.
"KAWA" IS START-ING.

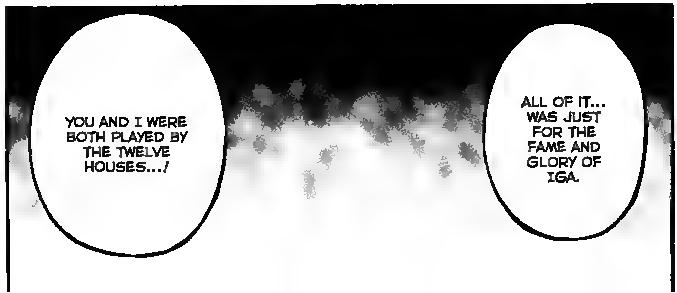
*T/N: 1 SHAKU = APPROX. 30 CM

EACH WILL DRAW A LINE AND THEY WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH IN THAT 4 SHAKU* BETWEEN THE LINES.
THE RULE IS, IF ONE SHOULD FALL BACK AND STEP OUTSIDE THE LINE BEHIND HIM, THE IGA SHINOBI WHO ARE THERE TO "INSPECT" WILL SLAUGHTER HIM.


THE REASON THEY CALL THIS "KAWA" ...
IS BECAUSE ONE OF THE TWO MUST DIE,
AND HIS CORPSE WILL MAKE THE THIRD LINE, TO FORM THE CHARACTER FOR KAWA (RIVER).
川



MUMON.
THIS WAR... EVERYTHING WAS PLOTTED BY THE JIZAMURAI OF THE TWELVE HOUSES.
MY FATHER, SHIMOYAMA KAI, CONFESSED THAT ON THE VERGE OF HIS DEATH.
EVEN WHEN THEY MADE YOU KILL MY YOUNGER BROTHER...
IT WAS ALL PART OF THEIR PLAN TO CRUSH THE ARMY OF ISE...


ALL OF IT... WAS JUST FOR THE FAME AND GLORY OF IGA.
YOU AND I WERE BOTH PLAYED BY THE TWELVE HOUSES...!

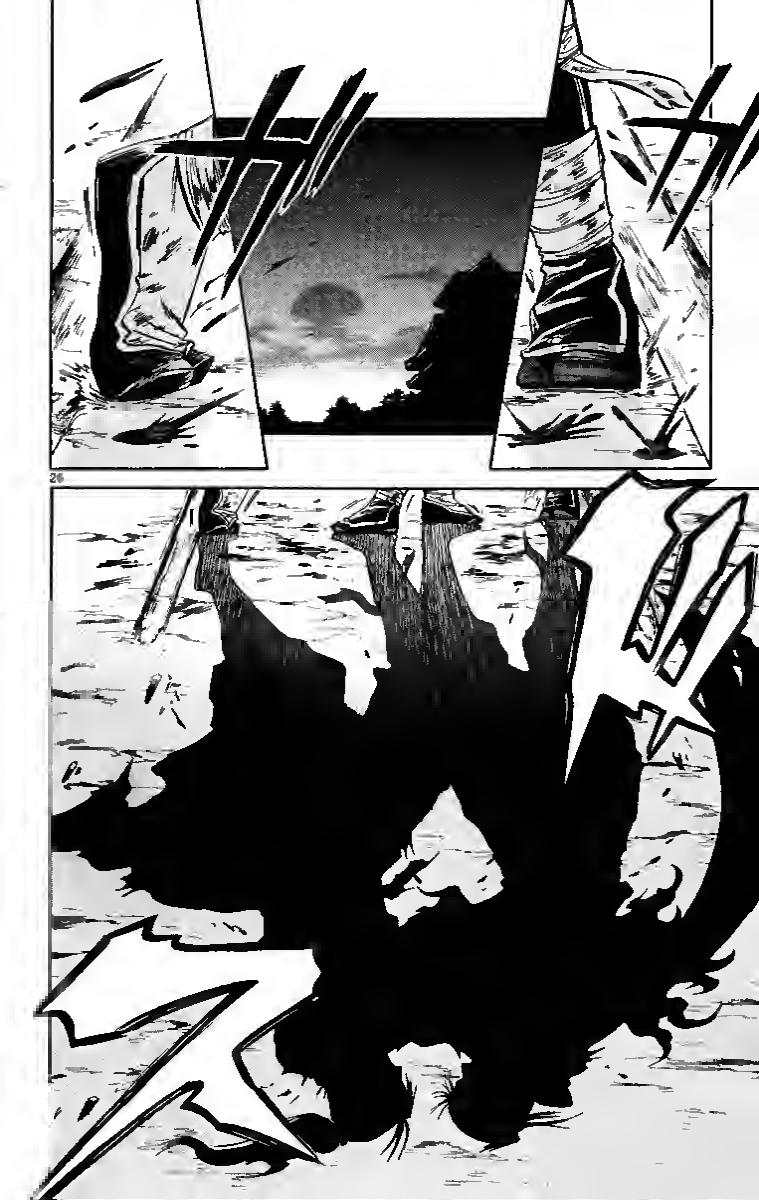
So even though he knows now that it was all part of a plan, he still does not intend to pull out of this...
MU-MON.
PROMISE ME ONE THING.
Indeed, I can imagine Sandayu and the rest of the old sods being behind it all...
I UNDER-STAND.
20
YOU WILL NOT LAY YOUR HANDS ON THESE ISE SHINOBI.
EVEN IF I DIE
I NO LONGER NEED IT.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO WEAR THAT MASK OF YOURS?
Nod Nod
IS THAT SO..?

Is this your way of defending yourself in land of the wild beasts?

LET'S BEGIN.

This...
their "art of war" that Nobunaga truly feared...
So this is...
can no longer be seen by the eyes of a warrior...

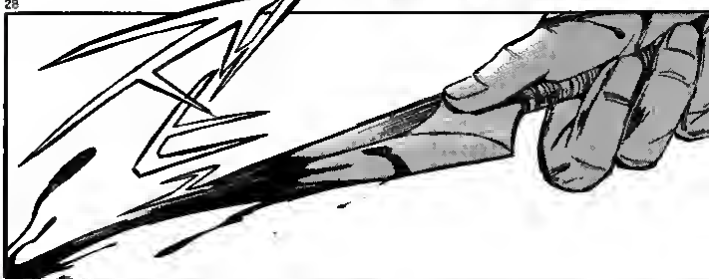
!
THEIR...
THEIR KIMONOS ARE QUICKLY DARKEN-ING...
THEY ARE NOT EVEN TRYING TO DODGE ATTACKS THAT ARE NOT CRITICAL.
THIS IS THE ICA SHINOBI THEY SPEAK OF!!!



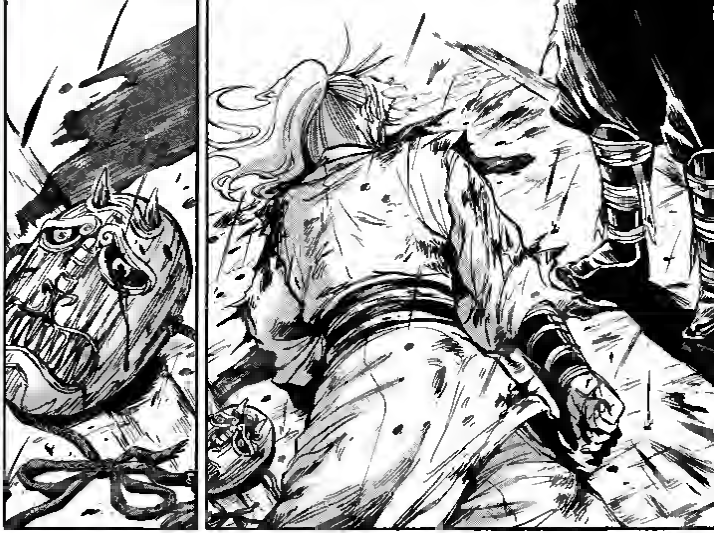
I...

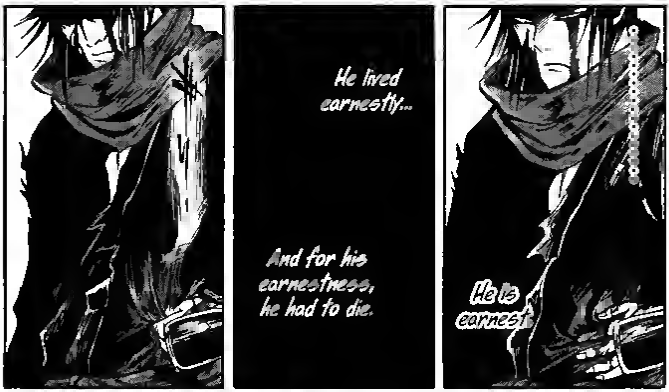
Have no regrets...

For leaving the land of my birth...



Do not break your promise.




He lived earnestly...
And for his earnestness, he had to die.
He is earnest

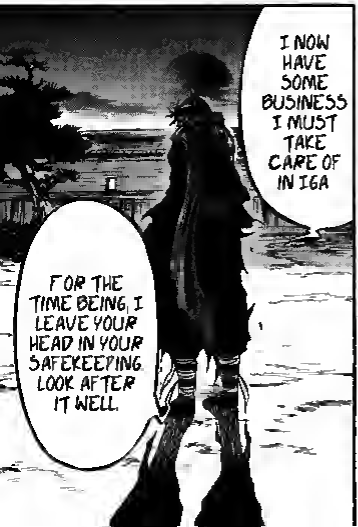
IS HE COMING?
DAIZEN...

WILL YOU LAY HIM TO REST IN THE LAND OF ISE?

What?

!?

I UNDER-STAND.


I NOW HAVE SOME BUSINESS I MUST TAKE CARE OF IN IGA
FOR THE TIME BEING, I LEAVE YOUR HEAD IN YOUR SAFEKEEPING. LOOK AFTER IT WELL.

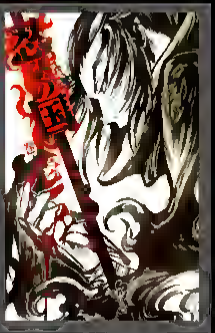
KITA-BATAKE NOBU-KATSU.

"I feel regretful"
I AM SURE I HEARD HIM SAY THAT.

!!
UH...
NO...
DO YOU OBJECT...?
WE CAME BECAUSE YOU TOLD US TO...
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
GOING BACK?

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi



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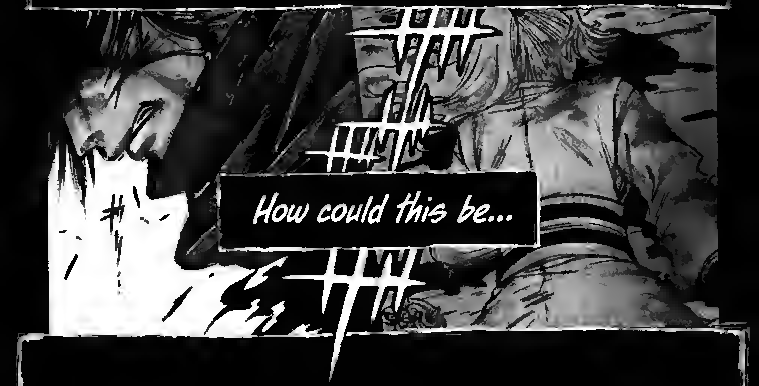
...What's wrong?

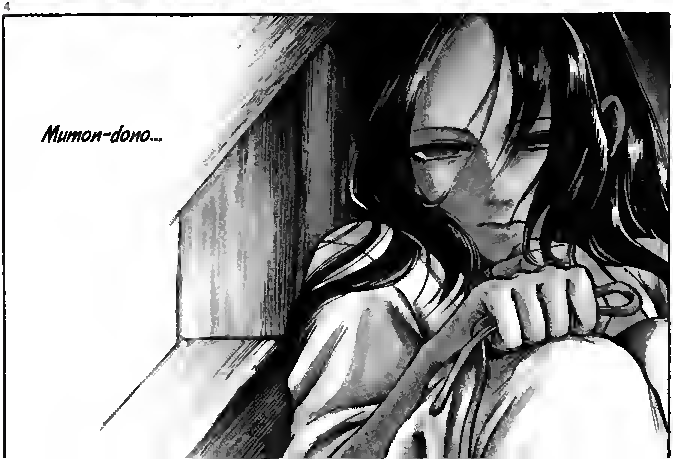
What is different about this? Have I not been numb all this time?



KILLING A MAN SICKENED ME

Chapter 21

WE MUST CELEBRATE OUR VICTORY AGAINST THOSE BAS-TARDS OF ISE!
COME ON, DRINK UP!


Mumon-dono...

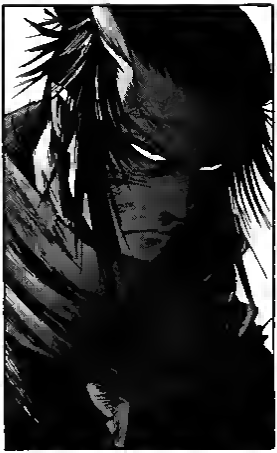
He told me that he wanted to be my husband...
Yet, he didn't get to keep his promise to me.
But...
didn't Mumon-dono always think of me first...?
It's my fault that Mumon-dono is...
HOW COME I NEVER REALIZED BEFORE...
That was all the gentleness that man of Iga could give me.
I'M...
OI, TETSU!
WE NEED SOME MORE SAKE HERE.
YEAH, YEAH, COMING...

MU-
MON?!
YOU'RE
ALIVE!!!

MUMON-
DONO...

Mumon-dono!

ナムナム



!?……
ぐらっ

!

ぐっ

EVERYTHING WAS PLOTTED BY THE JIZAMURAI OF THE TWELVE HOUSES.
MUMON...
THIS WAR...
That's what sickens me.
That's it...
The ones I must truly kill...
It is not the people of Ise nor Heibu...
?!
Are still living carelessly!!

WH-WHAT IS IT...?
MUMON, YOU...
.....
YOU GREEDY BASTARDS...
HOW DARE YOU PUT THE WOMAN I LOVE IN DANGER?!
UGH

DID YOU NOT ALSO GIVE INTO THAT GREED?

HU...

WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU BLABBERING ABOUT?!
HUHHYA HYAHYA HYAHYA!

YOU WERE BLINDED BY THE MONEY IN FRONT OF YOU; YOU DID NOT EVEN CONSIDER OUR PLANS OR AIM.
WAS IT NOT YOUR WILL TO ACCEPT THE KILLING OF JIROBE AND THE REBUILDING OF MARUYAMA CASTLE.

WE ARE OF A TRIBE OF WILD BEASTS, INCAPABLE OF LIVING IN AN ORDINARY WORLD.
IN THE END YOU AND I ARE THE SAME.

I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I FEEL SO AWFULLY ANGRY.
YOU HAVE A POINT.
Of course...
BUT YOU SEE...

YOU...
DO YOU REALLY INTEND ON FIGHTING ALL OF IGA?!
I COULDN'T BE SO RECKLESS IF I THOUGHT OF WHAT MY INTEN-TIONS WERE!
NAH... GU...
MEN!

THIS IS THE COLLECTIVE WILL OF THE JIZAMURAI OF THE TWELVE HOUSE!!
WHOEVER KILLS MUMON, I WILL RELIEVE HIM OF HIS SERVITUDE!!
!!!

HEH, POI-SONED DARTS ...

...Kuku...
15
Tribe of wild beasts...
you say..!!
STEP BACK!!

T/N: JUKOU-KONASU: CONSIDERED ONE OF THE TREASURES MADE BY THE TEA MASTER, MURATA JUKOU. IT WAS A TEA CONTAINER SHAPED AS A SMALL EGGPLANT. TAKIGAWA KAZUMASU, A VASSAL TO ODA NOBUNAGA WISHED FOR IT AS HIS REWARD, BUT WAS NEVER ABLE TO HAVE IT.
Konasu*...
IF YOU LAY ONE FINGER ON MUMON-DONO,
I WILL BREAK THIS TO PIECES AT ONCE. PREPARE YOURSELVES!
Don't do it...
No...
Okuni...

STOP!!
EVERYONE, PLEASE STOP!!!
Oku-mi...

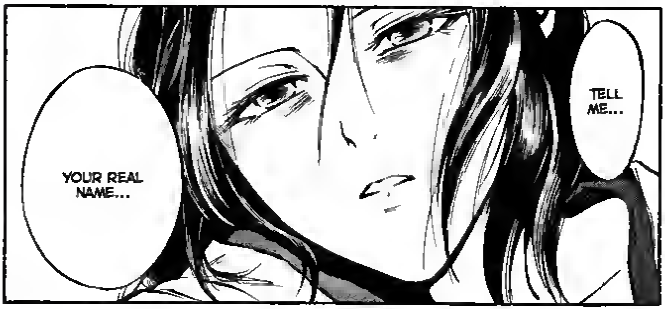
AH!
...UH
AAA
RG
H!!!

OKUNI, DON'T DIE!
I TOOK THEM OUT!
ARE THERE MORE?!
コロン
PLEASE DON'T DIE...
I WILL SAVE YOU...
I PROMISE I WILL SAVE YOU!!

DON'T SPEAK!!
MUMON-DONO...

YOUR NAME ...?

ふぅ


TELL ME...
YOUR REAL NAME...

I DON'T KNOW IT...

I HAVE NO SUCH THING AS A NAME.
THERE IS... NO SUCH THING AS A NAME FOR ME...!
WHEN I WAS STILL A CHILD... I WAS SOLD TO IGA.
SINCE THEN,
WITHOUT BEING GIVEN A NAME, I WAS ONLY TAUGHT THE WAYS OF SHINOBI...
WHEN I WAS FINALLY A FULL FLEDGED SHINOBI TO BE USED AS A TOOL
I WAS GIVEN THE NAME MUMON.

Why? I followed this man to this day.
That day, when we first met,
I was seeing without a doubt...
Oh...
Now I finally know...
The face of a sobbing child, asking to be saved.
Hiding beneath this man's funny face...

I AM SORRY...

I am sorry for you...

ヒュン
ごぉぉ
OF COURSE SHE'LL DIE...
SHE HASN'T TRAINED BY DRINKING POISON LIKE YOU.
BUNGO!! YOU BASTARD!!

キィン

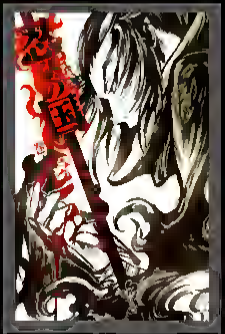
I had been struck by that man's way of life...
I was struck by it as I watched him die.
I see...
I had always wanted to live as a "human being"...
The path of shinobi is not the one I had chosen...
Until this moment, the only thing I had been deceiving, was none other than my own heart.

With Okuni...
WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN...

That night,
Mumon, with the corpse of Okuni on his hands, vanished like smoke from Iga.
THERE IS NO HUMAN BEING HERE.

Shinobi no Kuni

by WADA Ryou & BANNO Mutsumi



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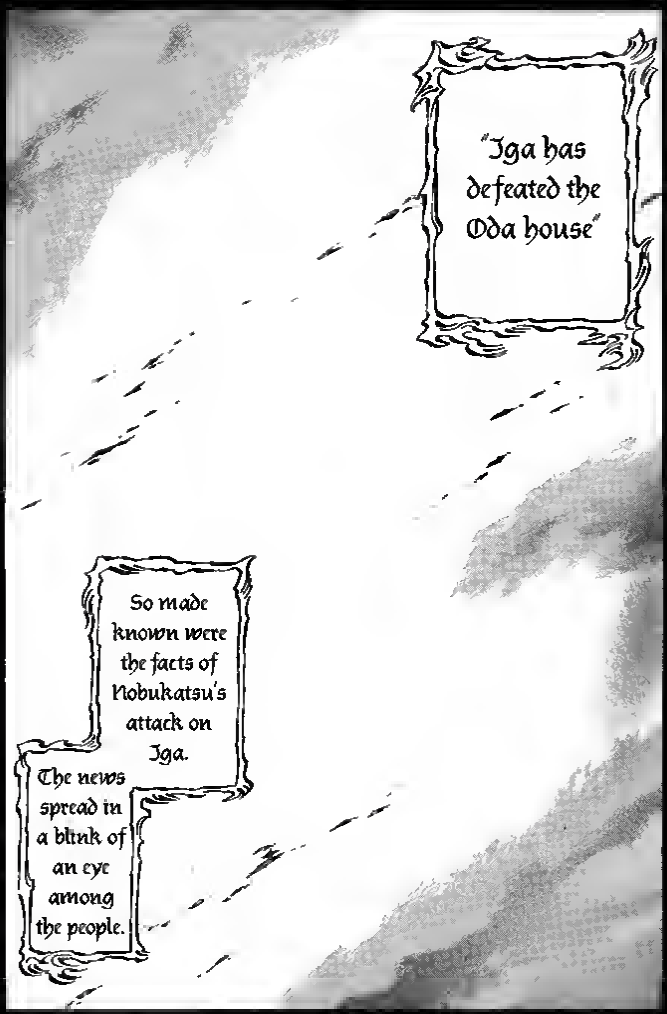

"Iga has defeated the Oda house"
So made known were the facts of Nobukatsu's attack on Iga.
The news spread in a blink of an eye among the people.

One month later,
Ta-maru castle
ズタ
……
DAIZEN.
2
SAKYOU-NOSUKE.
THERE ARE STILL SO MANY MEN WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO MOVE...
TCH...
IT WAS A BITTER DEFEAT.

AS A RESULT,
WE HAVE GIVEN THEM EVERYTHING THEY WANTED.
IT SEEMS, AFTER HEARING OF THIS WAR, THE ANTI-ODA INTERESTS ARE FIGHTING AGAINST EACH OTHER TO RECRUIT IGA SHINOBI.
THE RETAINERS ARE UNABLE TO KEEP WITH SUCH IMPETUS, OWING TO THIS, THE VALUE OF THE IGA SHINOBI KEEPS RISING.
!……
WHERE IS GOHONJO?
PERHAPS THE SAME REASON AS YOU ARE?
AH...
ANY-WAYS,
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
WHAT?! SO IT'S TRUE...
IT SEEMS HE'S ALREADY GONE...
BY HIMSELF...
YES,

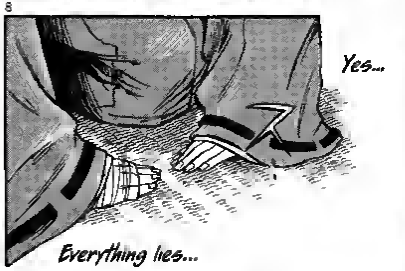
Azuchi
castle

……ドスッ
ドスッ

I HAVE TO LOOK AT THE FACE OF A FOOL AS SOON AS I RETURN TO AZUCHI
YOU!!

IN SPITE OF BEING TOLD SO MANY TIMES NOT TO ATTACK IGA...
YOU EVEN GOT TSUGE KILLED!!

I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS!!
GOHONJO.
WHEN YOU GO TO OFFER YOUR APOLOGY TO YOUR FATHER,
WE WILL ACCOMPANY YOU.
NO YOU WILL NOT.
!?
BUT WE ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE..
NO!
YOU WILL KEEP QUIET AND RECUPERATE.


Yes...
Everything lies...

YOU...
ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

To the one who ordered the attack on Iga.
I, Kitabatake Nobukatsu am responsible!!

OI...
YES.
!.....
すと
ズ
!?
!!
じいっ…
ぐい

HMPH.

.....?
WHAT WAS THAT?

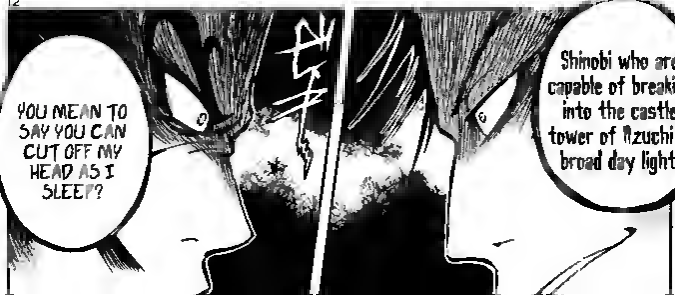
WE ARE TROUBLED BY A LONE IGA SHINOBI
WHO WANTS TO ENTER THE CASTLE STATING HE HAS AN AFFAIR HE WISHES TO SPEAK TO MY LORD OF.
REPORTING, MY LORD.
!

A LOWLY SHINOBI WANTS TO SPEAK TO ME?
どさっ
HM.
YES.
HIS SERVANT IS NOT EVEN A JI-ZAMURAI*, BUT A MERE FARMER.
KILL HIM AND THROW HIM OUT.

T/N. PROVINCIAL SAMURAI WHO WERE FARMERS DURING PEACETIME.

DO NOT BE FLUSTERED!!!
HA... AH...

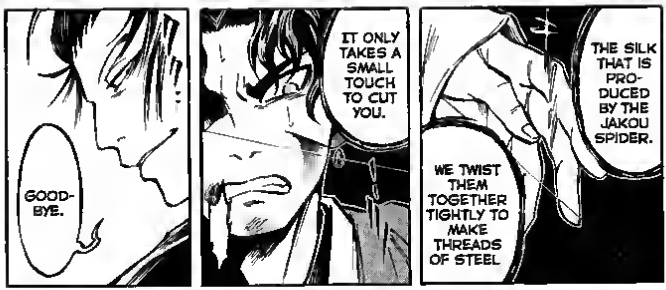
SHINOBI, YOU HAVE GOOD SKILLS.
AS A REWARD FOR BREAKING INTO OUR CASTLE OF AZUCHI, I WILL LEND YOU MY EAR.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?
I HAVE ALREADY SAID WHAT I WANTED TO SAY.
IN IGA, THERE ARE MANY MORE SHINOBI WHO HAVE THE SAME SKILLS AS I.

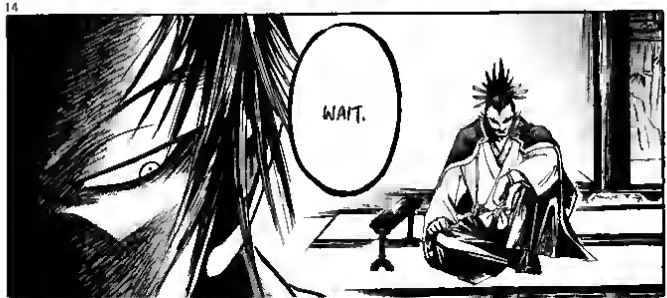

Shinobi who are capable of breaking into the castle tower of Azuchi in broad day light.
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU CAN CUT OFF MY HEAD AS I SLEEP?

You will not keep your life...!
Indeed.
If you do not destroy all of Iga...

DO NOT MOVE AN INCH.
STAY STILL!!
MUMON, DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE ALIVE?!

!?!


THE SILK THAT IS PRO-DUCED BY THE JAKOU SPIDER.
WE TWIST THEM TOGETHER TIGHTLY TO MAKE THREADS OF STEEL
IT ONLY TAKES A SMALL TOUCH TO CUT YOU.
GOOD-BYE.


WAIT.

THE ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF MUMON,
!?
WILL YOU NOT BE A SPY FOR ME?
.....
NO...
I WANT NO PART OF THE ODA HOUSE
NOR IGA.
THEN WHERE WILL YOU GO?
LET'S SEE...

I THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP IN KYOTO.

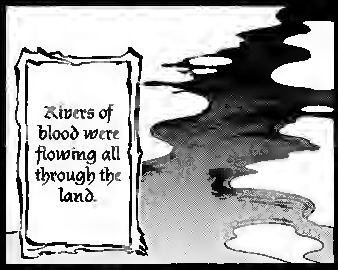
KU KK UK KU

FA-THER ...

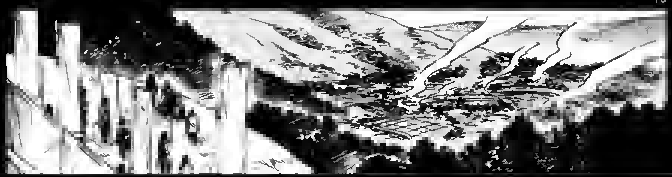
After the "news" had spread,
money suddenly came rolling in for the Iga.
Their way of life soon turned arrogant..
However...
such glory for Iga lasted only 2 years.

9th year of Tensho (1581) September
Nobunaga sent out more than 44000 troops to Iga
The war is known historically as "The second attack of Iga".

Massacred all the Iga shinobi they could find, men and women, the young and old.
Over the course of one month,
the troops sent out by Nobunaga.


Rivers of blood were flowing all through the land.

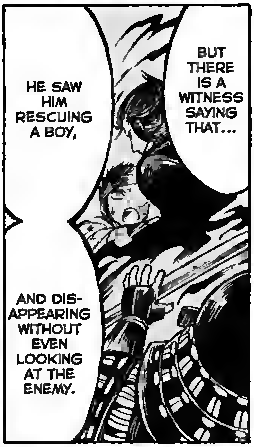
It is said that the population of the country of Iga was halved in this war.

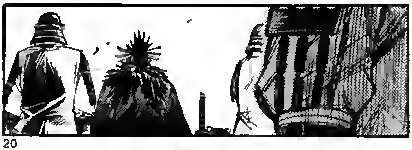


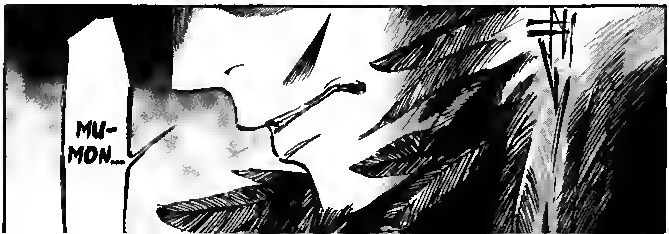
WE ARE USING THE CAPTURED IGA SHINOBI AS GUIDES,
WE ARE LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED, YET...
WE ARE STILL UNABLE TO FIND THE HEAD OF THAT MUMON.

LORD NOBUKATSU.

He is in Kyoto after all...
.....


BUT THERE IS A WITNESS SAYING THAT...
HE SAW HIM RESCUING A BOY,
AND DISAPPEARING WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT THE ENEMY.




MU-MON...

The village of Houjiro, Momoji fortress
カコッ

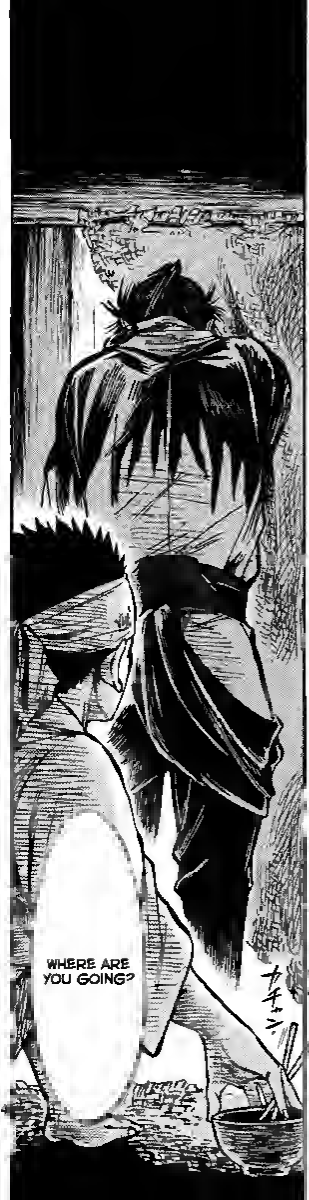
THE NATION OF SHINOBI HAS PERISHED.

THEIR LIVES CANNOT BE ERASED IN SUCH A WAY.
THE TRIBE OF WILD BEASTS HAS SCATTERED UNDER THE SUN.

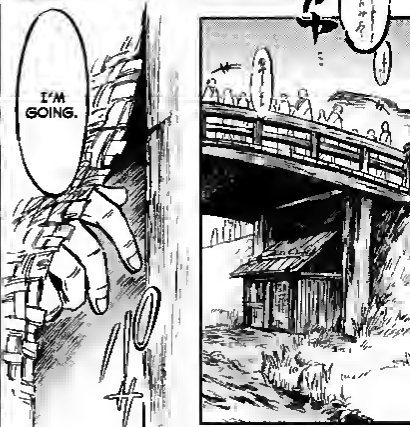
NO, THAT'S WRONG.

INDEED.
SCAT-TERED UNDER THE SUN...

ONE DAY THE BLOOD OF THE TRIBE OF WILD BEASTS WILL COMPLETELY COVER THE WORLD
THEIR BLOOD WILL CREEP IN SOMEWHERE IN OUR CHILDREN, OUR GRAND CHILDREN AND THEIR GRAND CHILDREN.
The blood of monsters who take no notice of another's suffering, who live only by their greed...
One day that blood will permeate every corner of this world.


WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
カチャン

Kyoto.
ワイワイ
ガヤガヤ


I'M GOING.

TO NISHINO-YAMA.
OKUNI IS WAITING FOR ME.
MUMON...
NISHINOYAMA... YOU BURIED HER THERE OF ALL PLACES?
IT'S A DAILY ROUTINE FOR ME, I'LL RETURN BY SUNSET.
BUT, WHY?

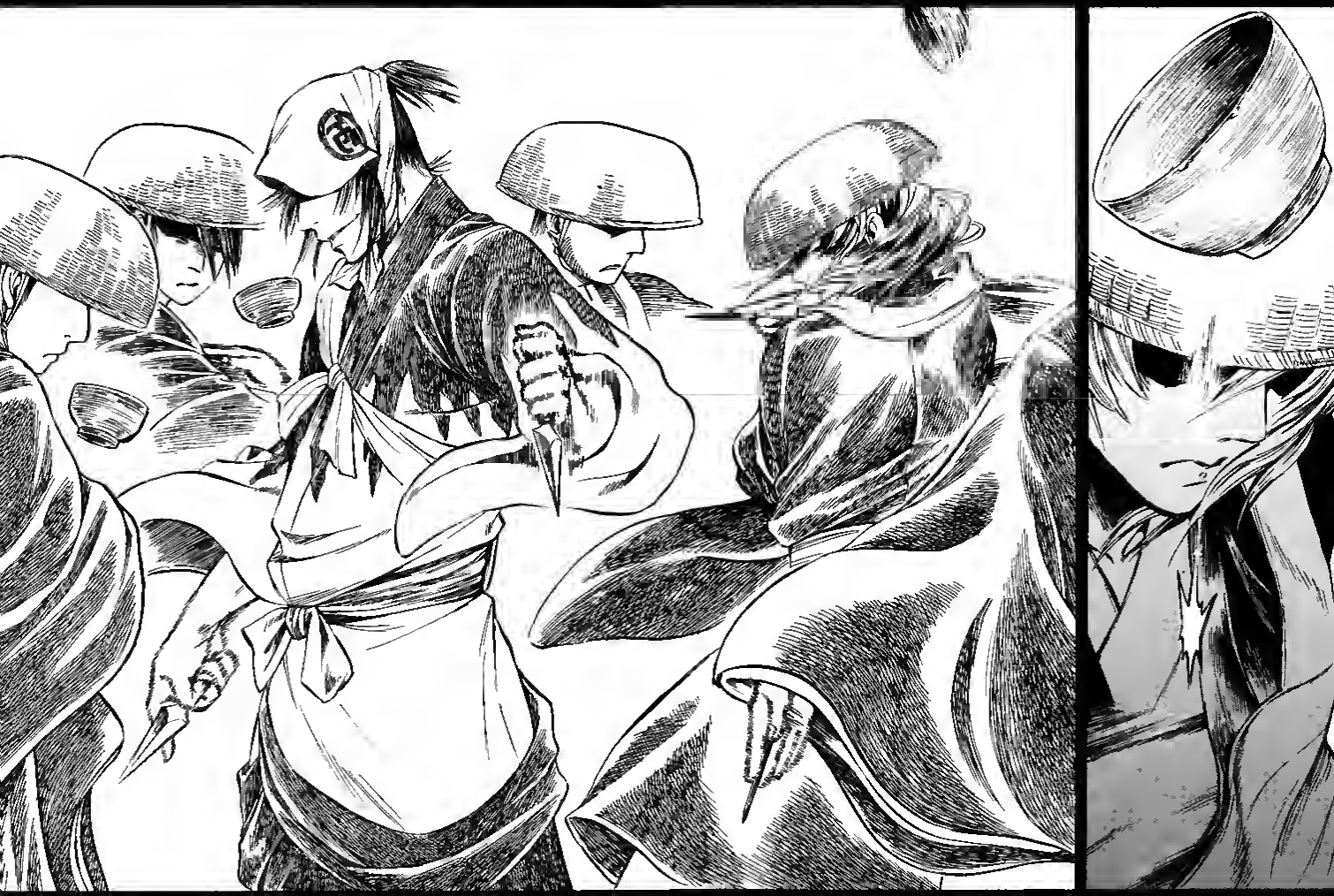
25

WILL YOU WALK BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN SEVERAL LEAGUES EVERYDAY?!
THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO DO SUCH A THING,
IF ONLY YOU BROUGHT HER BONES HERE.
BY YOUR SIDE...
WHY WON'T YOU KEEP HER BY YOUR SIDE?

IF I BRING HER HERE TO A SHED LIKE THIS,
I WILL ONLY BE SCOLDED BY HER AGAIN.

ちん…
ガヤガヤ
ワイワイ

He's infuriated...
IT'S BUNGO.
He must have heard that Nobunaga's attack on Iga was my fault.
27
Bungo...
Do you really think these men are enough to kill me?



ガヤガヤ
ワイワイ
コソ
まんぼぼぼ
mumble
mumble
SHINOBI NO KUNI / THE END

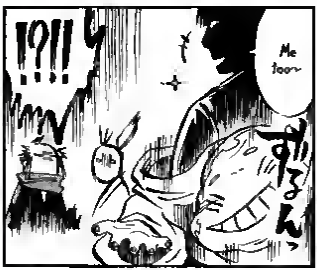
Shinobi no Kuni

SHINOBI NO KUNI EXTRA

WE'RE ALL THE SAME YET WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT

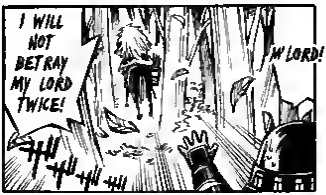
They have one thing in common. They both like to hide their true selves!

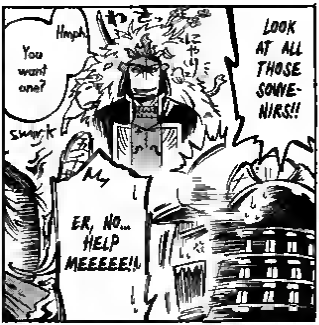
Though their personalities differ from each other...



There's a rumour he might be a little more handsome

IF HE SHOULD MAKE IT OVER THE MOUNTAIN





The man of miracle who didn't catch fire on chapter 13

Special Thanks

Iwadare, You-san, Seto-san
Supervisor Hoshino-san
The original author **Wada Ryo**
Friends, acquaintances,
parents, siblings and above all
You, the readers!

読者様